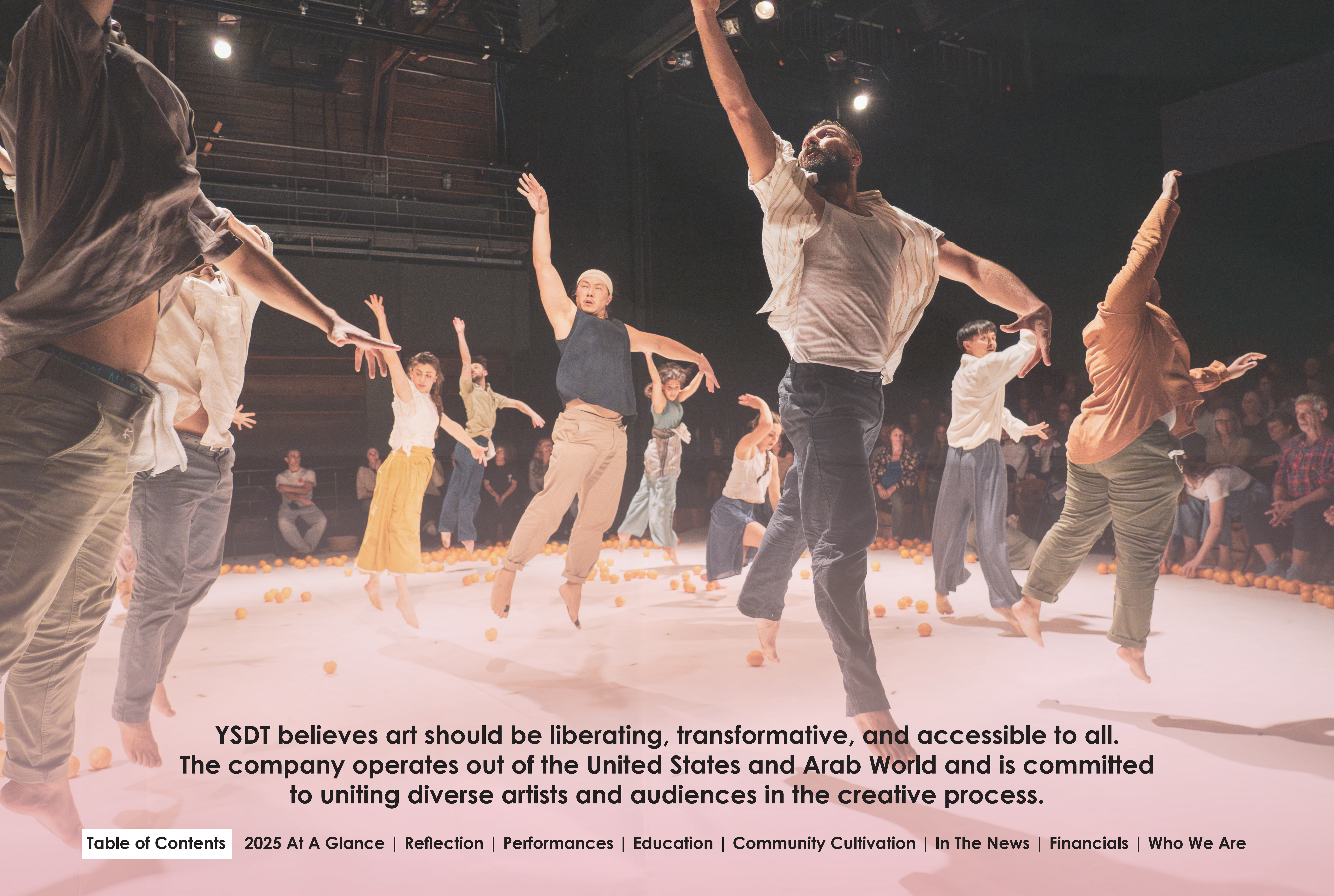


A YEAR OF GATHERING

YAA SAMAR DANCE THEATRE'S
2025 IMPACT REPORT





YSDT believes art should be liberating, transformative, and accessible to all. The company operates out of the United States and Arab World and is committed to uniting diverse artists and audiences in the creative process.

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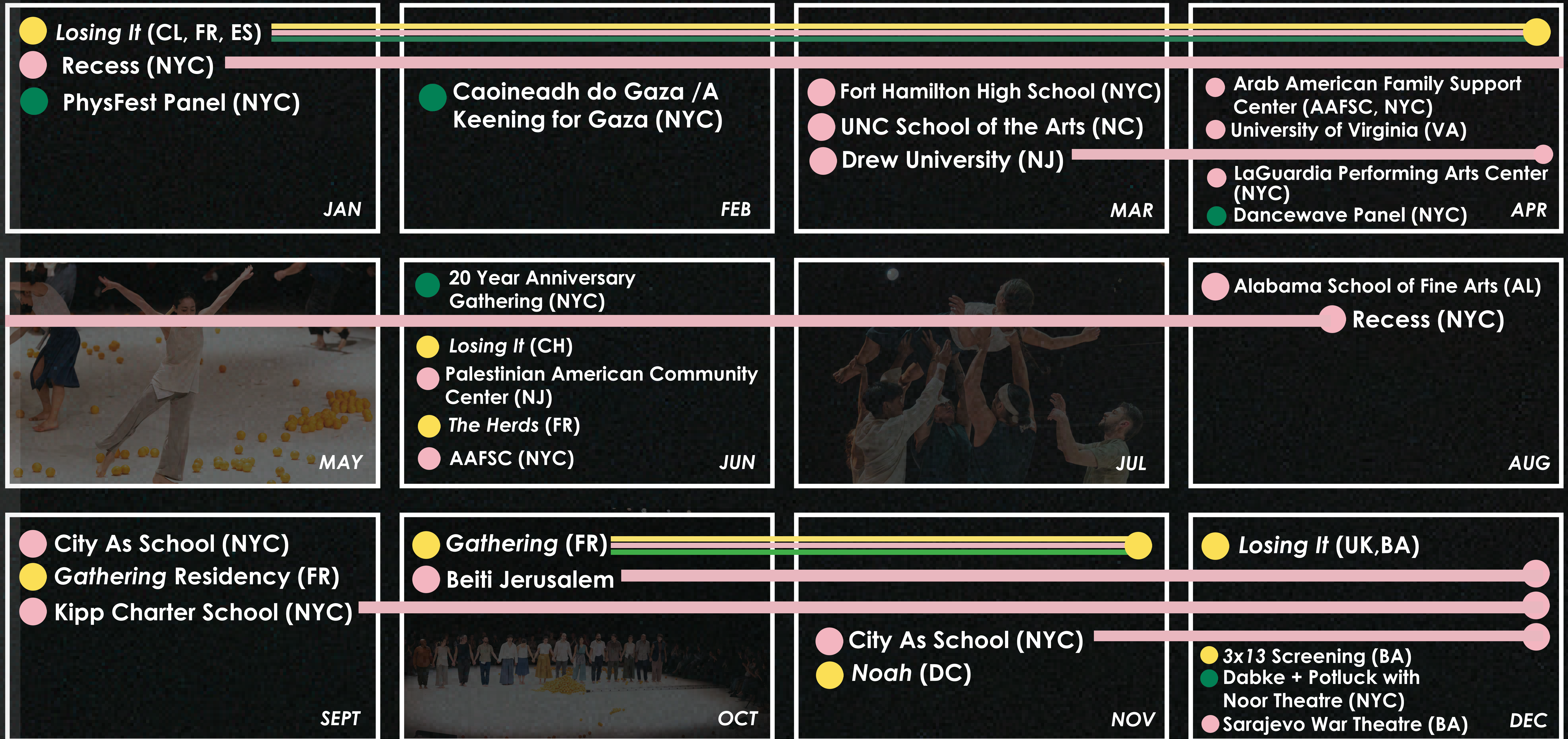
2025 At A Glance | Reflection | Performances | Education | Community Cultivation | In The News | Financials | Who We Are

MISSION

Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre (YSDT) creates invigorating performance and education programs that expand access to - and promote understanding through - the arts.

2025

AT A GLANCE



● Public Performances/Screenings ● Workshops/Education ● Community

REFLECTION



“The theatre has always been a place of gathering, a place of solidarity. In Arab societies, this gathering is at the heart of life: funerals, weddings, festivals, commemorations. Everything is collective. With *Gathering*, I wanted to recapture that energy. When the audience enters the theatre, they enter a space of memory, of rituals, of shared stories. [...] the audience is part of the collective.

In this show, the audience is invited to meet the character Israa, with her dreams, her contradictions, her anger. That's what I want, for people to meet someone. Not a cause, not a flag. A person. Despite the horrors facing many of our communities, this remains at the heart of theatre: the possibility of a shared gesture. And within that gesture, hope.”

- *Saman Haddad King*
with Walid Salem for Rue89Bordeaux





PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

This year, YSDT performed in seven countries across three continents, reaching over 10,000 audience members.

“Samar Haddad King... is part of a new generation capable of proudly representing Palestinian theater internationally, in all its nuanced depth and artistic freedom.”

- Samuel Gleyze-Esteban, L'Humanité

European Premiere:

Oct. 8-11, 2025 at Théâtre nationale de Bordeaux Aquitaine, FAB Festival (Bordeaux, France)

Gathering

Télerama

“Gathering”, de la Palestinienne Samar Haddad King : la force et la joie du collectif, en réponse à la détresse de Gaza

Dans cette pièce où la danse et le chant sont au service de l'expérience collective...

12 sold out performances in 8 cities.

Gathering is a full-length performance of movement, text, song, dance, puppetry, and play that is part staged work, part interactive experience in collaboration with local artists and audiences. Written, directed and conceived by YSDT Artistic Director Samar Haddad King using Max Richter's Vivaldi: The Four Seasons and original music (performed live on stage) and text by King, *Gathering* tells the fictional story of a village under siege and one woman's struggle to reconcile her fragmented memories.

l'Humanité
« GATHERING » DE SAMAR HADDAK : UNE HISTOIRE PALESTINIENNE DE FÊTE ET DANS L'URGENCE



28 performances
in 6 countries
and 15 cities



3x13

Screening in Sarajevo, Bosnia
(with subtitles now in Bosnian)



Losing It

Losing It by Samaa Wakim and Samar Haddad King explores the thin lines between collapse and resilience.

The Herds

Site specific work in collaboration with The Herds, a public art and climate action project, Place des Fêtes, Paris, France



Noah

At Middle East Studies Association Conference, Washington, DC



l'Humanité

SAMAR HADDAD KING ET SAMAA WAKIM :
« ON SE DEMANDE CONSTAMMENT SI
NOTRE TRAVAIL A UN EFFET. REND-ON
VRAIMENT COMPTE DE L'HORREUR QUI

EDUCATION

HIGHLIGHTS

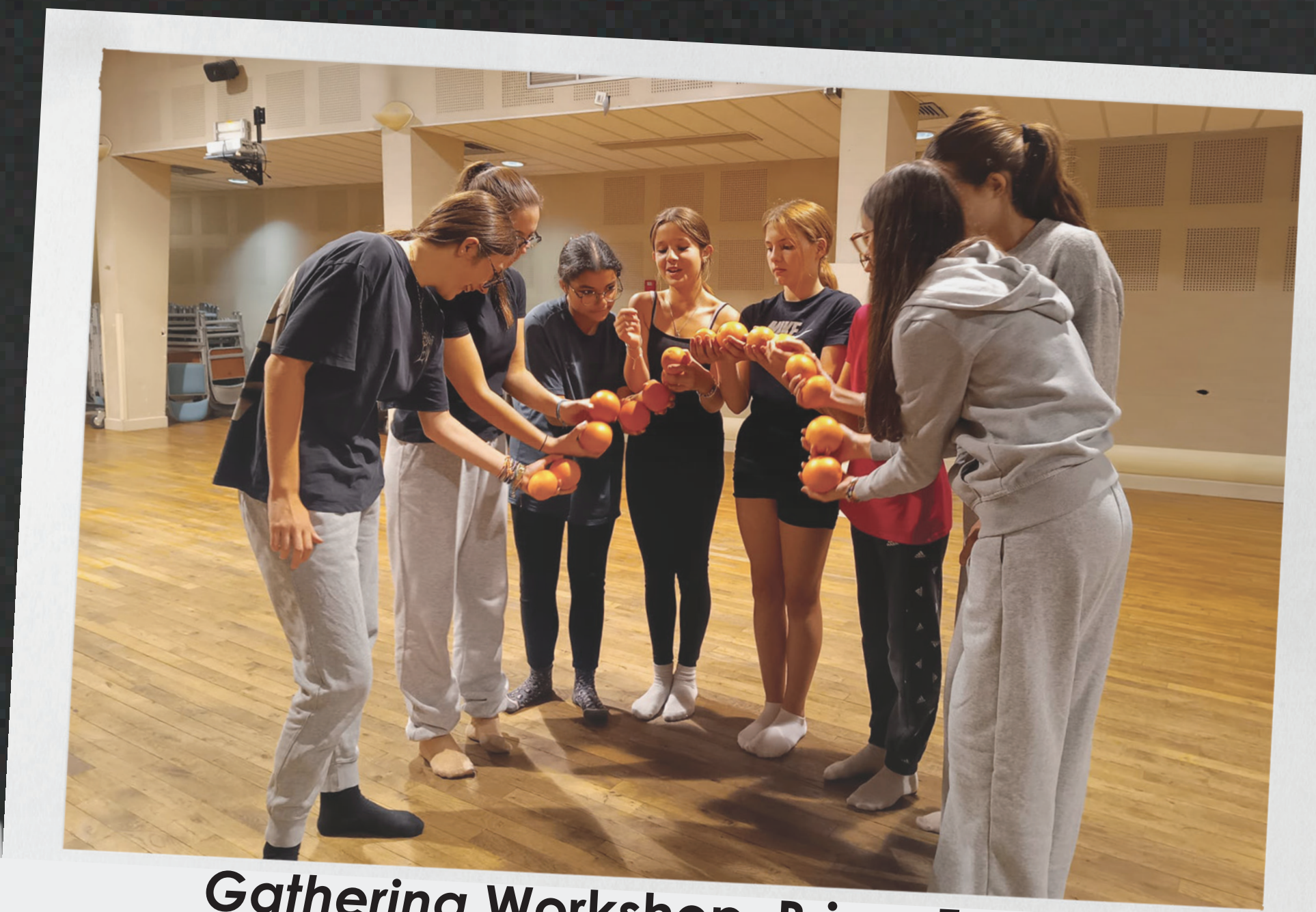
This year YSDT conducted engagement programs in five countries across four continents, reaching more than 2,900 participants.

School Partners:

Alabama School of Fine Arts, City As School, KIPP Beyond Charter School, Fort Hamilton High School

Community Partners:

Arab American Family Support Center, Noor Theatre, Recess, Yabous Cultural Center



Gathering Workshop, Brive, France

95% of participants came away from classes feeling energized and inspired.

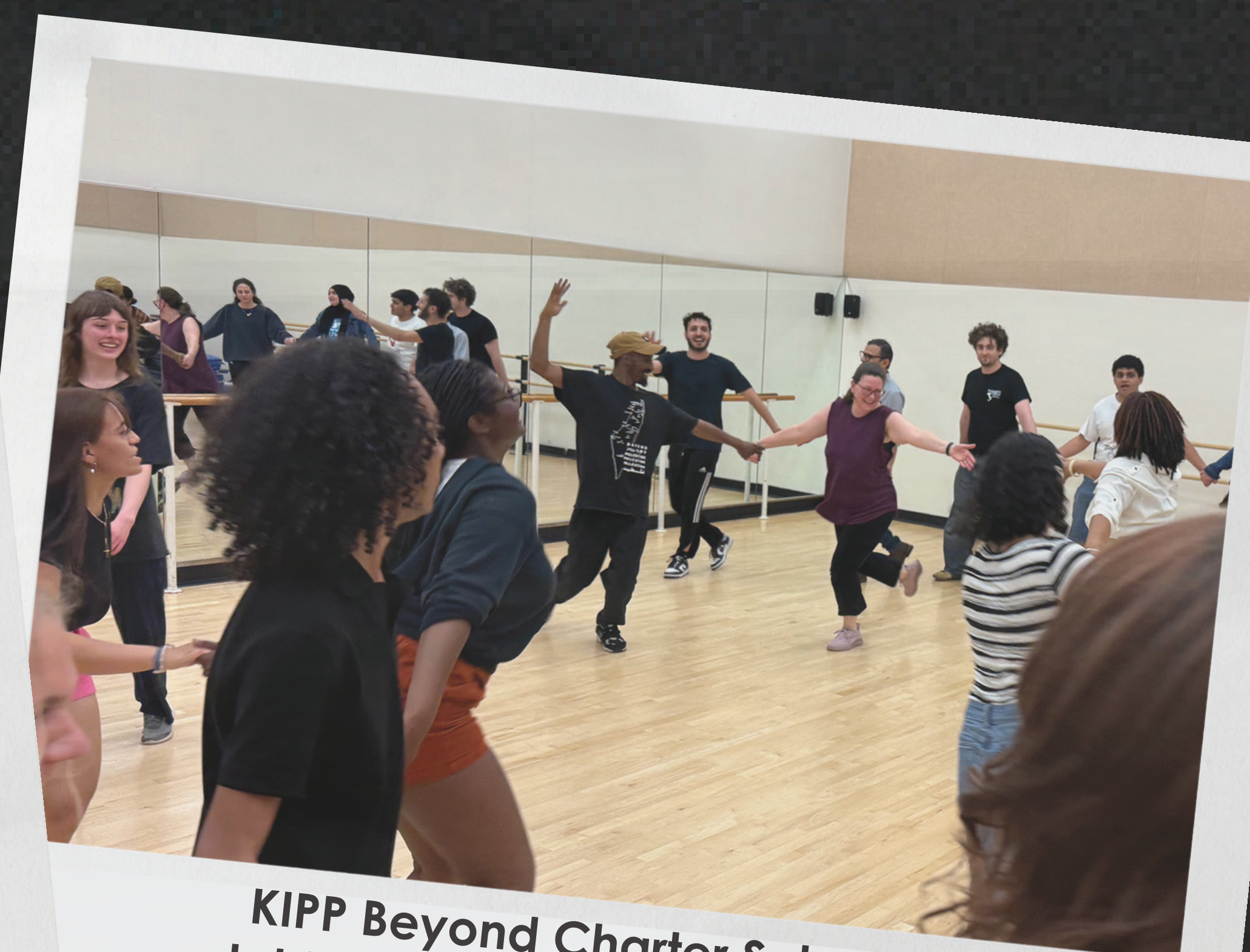
ASFA Gathering

“This experience opened my eyes to a model of what I might want my relationship with dance to look like in the future. Zoe and Arzu were amazing mentors, movers, teachers, and thinkers”.

– Isabelle Shemwell,
ASFA Gathering student/participant



Beiti Jerusalem pilot program



KIPP Beyond Charter School -
dabke + hip hop classes in NYC.

“We’re so grateful for you, YSDT educators, energy and partnership, and I’m really looking forward to continuing this collaboration next year.” – KT Kennedy, Recess Arts

HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY CULTIVATION



France

Brooklyn Potluck + Dabke

In 2025, community was built not only at performances, but in shared meals, movement, and memories.
Total reach = 13,951



20 Year Anniversary Gathering





WATCH THE RECAP VIDEO FROM OUR 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT FUNOON

Reviews, interviews and features in 15+ media outlets

IN THE NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS

Libération

“What is captivating is the resonance between these dancers who are drawn to each other to lighten their burdens in the present. And if the core breaks, the thread does not break: a restless hip-hop phrase here echoes a lament there. Despite the destruction, we must not cease to weave the memory.”

– Hanaa Laborde

“All of Samar Haddad King’s choreographic work — along with that of her energetic troupe — is built around elements that are deeply symbolic yet strikingly simple: oranges that become the synesthetic traces of an entire people’s history, bodies in motion, and ladders resting on emptiness to which one clings desperately.”

– Auguste Poulon

FULL
PRESS
LIST
>>>>

“The choreography bursts with joy, thanks to fluid turns and glides punctuated by leaps, which are tempered by the melancholy of Ash Winkfield’s singing.”

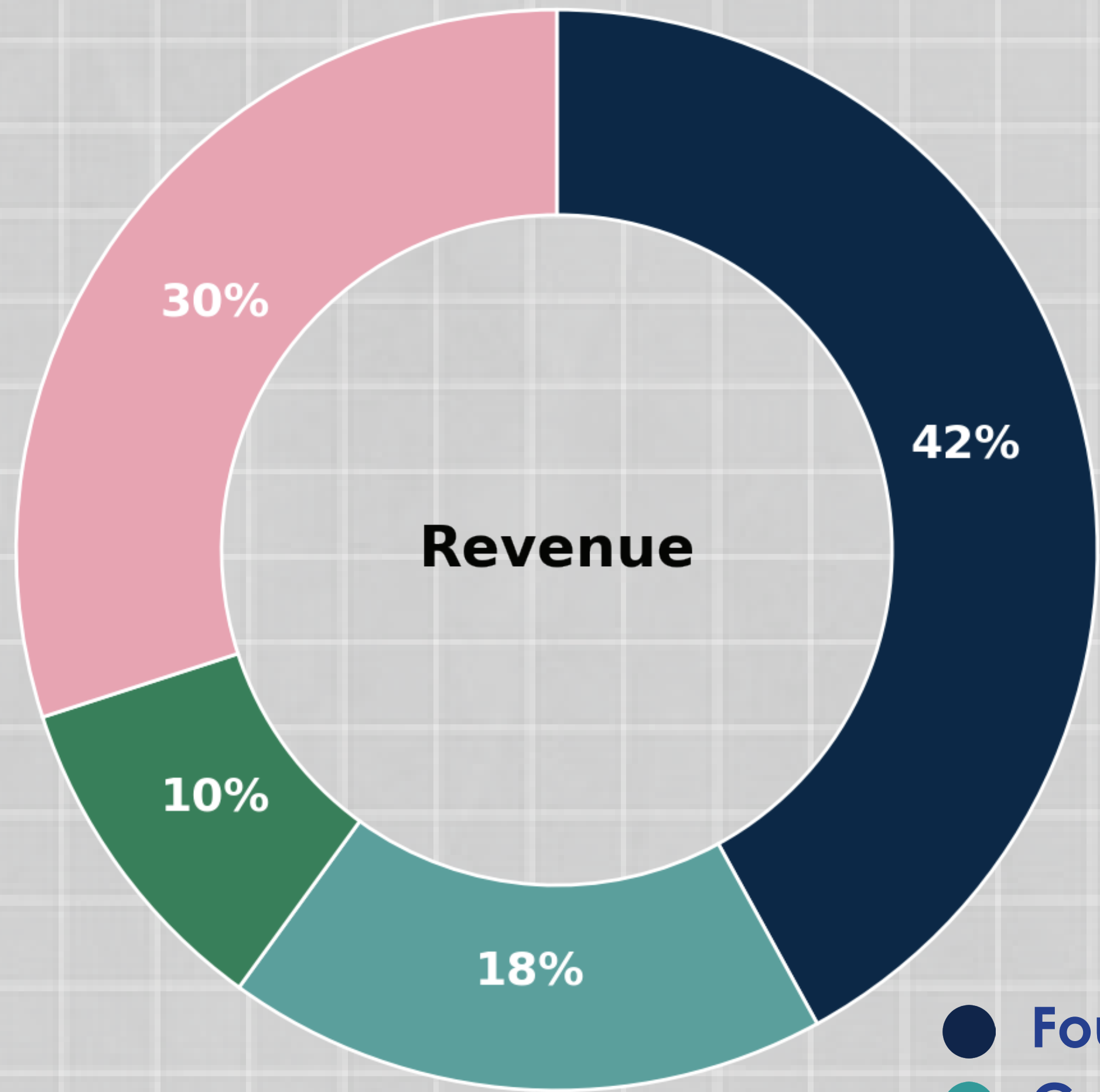
– Belinda Mathieu

“A true unifier, Samar Haddad King breaks the fourth wall and invites the audience into a collective celebration of life and death. A cathartic theatre experience.”

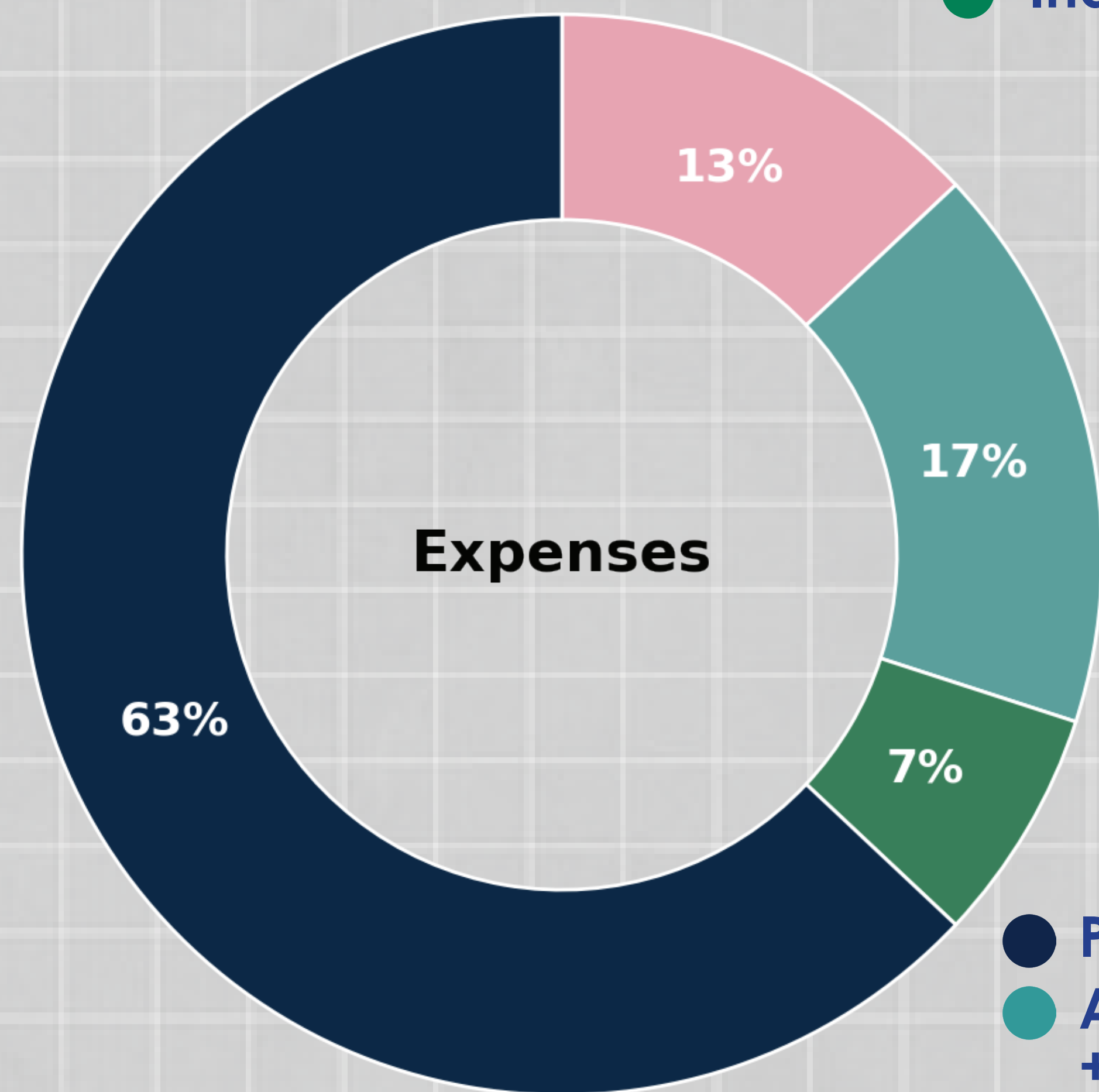
– Muriel Maalouf



2025 FINANCIALS

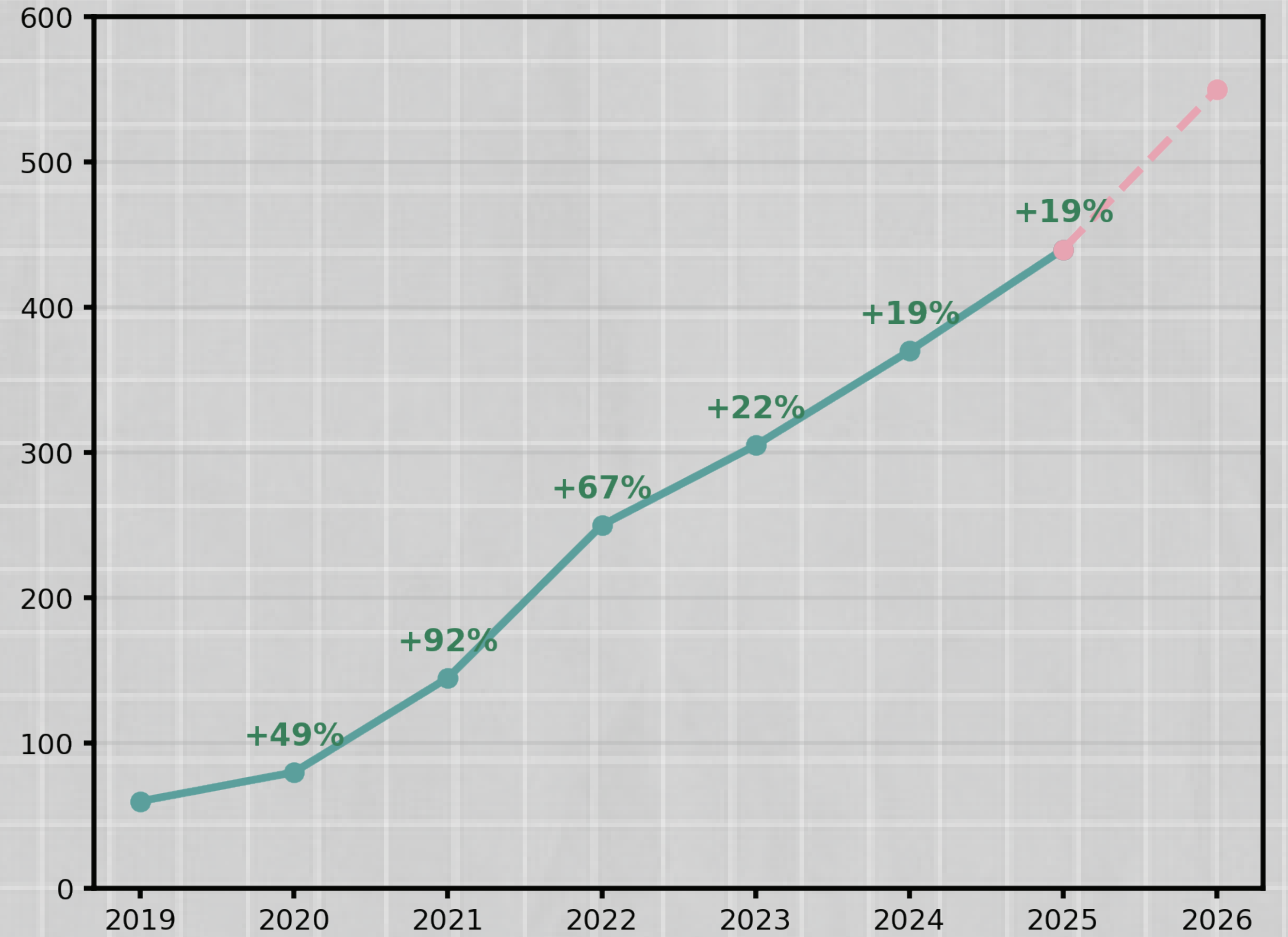


- Foundations
- Government
- Earned Income
- Individual Donations



- Programs
- Administration + General Operating
- Development + Fundraising
- Marketing

General Operating Budget



- Current General Operating Budget
- Projected General Operating Budget

Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre 2025

Management

Artist Director

Samar Haddad King

Executive Director

Zoe Rabinowitz

Communications + Operations Manager

Jess Ducey

Social Media Manager

Samaa Wakim

Digital Design Consultant

Devi Penny

Board of Directors

Kristine Covillo Lynch (president)

Ryan King (treasurer)

Jessie Mandel (secretary)

Abed Awad

Samar Haddad King

Erin Moore

Zoe Rabinowitz

Nathan Trice

Dave Welty

The Company

Choreographer/Composer/Director/Writer

Samar Haddad King

Assistant Director

Stephanie Sutherland (*Gathering*)

Rehearsal Director

Zoe Rabinowitz

Technical Director

Muaz Aljubeh

Production Manager

Frances Caperchi

Performers + Teaching Artists

Waseem Alzer

Adan Azzam

Nadim Bahsoun

Charles BreCARD

Mehdi Dakhan

Dounia Dolbec

Mohammed Fouad

Dahlia Khair

Shahed Jabarin

Yukari Osaka

Zoe Rabinowitz

Arzu Salman

Natalie Salsa

Yousef Sbieh

Mohammed Smahneh

Enrico Dau Yang Wey

Samaa Wakim

Ash Winkfield

Funders

British Council Palestine

Center for Arab American Philanthropy

Covillo Lynch Foundation

Dance/NYC

Emma Sheaffer Charitable Trust

Ettijihat

Howard Gilman Foundation

Foundation for Contemporary Arts

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

Mosaic Network & Fund

NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs

NYFA

NYSCA

Pierre & Tana Matisse Foundation

Rockefeller Brothers Foundation

Wilhelm Family Foundation

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Joséphine Rigon-Vaerman (pg 7)

Elyse Mertz (pg 9)

Meesh Mor (pg 9,10)

Devi Penny (pg 10)

Alain Cazenave (pg 11)

All others are YSDT's own

Yaa Samar!
DANCE THEATRE



Produced by: Devi Penny